



Commission Meeting: Briefing on Status of Decommissioning

HEMATITE – FORMER FUEL FABRICATION FACILITY

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Hematite Site

- **Special Nuclear Material license (SNM-33)**
- **Former Fuel Fabrication Facility**
- **228 Acre Site, 10 Acre Central Tract**
- **Complex site with buried chemical & radiological waste and contaminated groundwater**
- **Regulated by NRC & Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)**

Primary Site Conditions/Issues

- **On-site waste disposal**
 - **40 Documented burial pits (1965 to 1971)**
 - **Potential undocumented pits (pre- 1965)**
- **2 Evaporation ponds (1958 to 1978)**
- **Groundwater contamination**
- **Large Volumes of Low Concentration/Diffuse Material**

Timeline

1956 Plant opened

1974 Government operations ceased (high and low-enriched U), manufacturing of commercial nuclear fuel only (low-enriched U)

2000 WEC Acquired Business

2001 Manufacturing terminated

2001 to 2006 Uranium, Waste Equipment Removal Projects

Timeline

**6/30/06 NRC approval for building
demolition**

**9/16/06 Decommissioning Plan Conditionally
accepted for technical review**

12/2007 Decommission Plan Approval

Lessons Learned

- Continuity of NRC Project Management to maintain consistent regulatory strategies
- Electronic submittal of documents needs to be more clear or user friendly
- More flexibility of approaches for issues outside normal situations (i.e. Characterization of Buried Waste)

Lessons Learned

- Increased Physical Security concerns due to former Government operations
- Ability to perform D&D projects under License, prior to approved Decommissioning Plan

Lessons Learned

- Good Management/Team Communications
 - Standing bi-weekly conference call
 - Open discussions of issues and regulatory strategies
- Good cooperation of NRC, MDNR and Project to host public meetings with local community and stakeholders

Opportunities

- Need for Regulatory Exemptions for Low Concentration/Diffuse Fissile Material
(Regulations based on mass, not concentration)
- Expand Waste Disposal Options

Opportunities

- Early acceptance of site decommissioning programs and release criteria
 - Project control programs incorporated into license, then referenced in DP
 - DCGL derivation reports – early approval (even prior to ceasing operations) would help project planning